

Reflections

February 2022

317 S. Main Street



Dear Friends,

A pastor was preparing to leave the congregation, where he had served faithfully for seven years. Both he and his parishioners were in tears over the parting. Gifts were given, embraces shared, kind and complimentary words offered: “Pastor, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your service to the Lord here.” “Pastor, your faithfulness has been an inspiration to us.” “Pastor, God has truly blessed us with your ministry.” But of all the gracious and kind comments made, the most moving, the most impressive was this: “Pastor, we knew that no matter how bad things were, no matter how difficult things became, if you were present, somehow it would be all right.” No pastor could hear anything more uplifting and affirming than this.

“Pastor, we just knew that no matter how bad things were, no matter how difficult things became, if you were present, somehow it would be all right.” Multiply that sense of reassuring presence a hundred-fold, and it begins to convey something of the assurance that those who were sick or poor or broken by life must have felt in the presence of the Good Pastor, Jesus Christ. When Jesus was around, these people just knew that things would be all right. Healing would happen. (Thanks to Dr. David Wesley Reid, Pastor First Baptist Church Reading, Massachusetts for this story.)

As members of the Christian faith I think we can all agree that life comes to life in the presence of God. This new life places upon each of us an obligation not just to be beneficiaries, but also conduits – individual pipelines, if you will, through which the living and life-giving spirit of Christ can flow into the lives of others in need. It is incumbent upon us to follow this example. We can convey life to others in the name of Jesus. Truth is, if Jesus lives inside us, if we are filled with his life, he sticks out somewhere, bringing health and well-being to others. Wherever Jesus is, all things end up alright. Healing happens.

The world is filled with broken people, but when they are touched by Jesus, life happens. Healing of mind, body, or spirit happens. The assurance that things will be alright grows. As Christians, we are the beneficiaries of this blessing and the instruments of it as well. May we use both of these to bring about ministry in the name of Jesus.

Blessings,

Bryan

FUMY News

February 2022

Important Reminders:

- **February 2:** FUMY Monthly Mission Work 5:30 - 7 pm plus FUMY Mid-Week
- **February 11:** 7 am FUMY Prayer Breakfast
- **February 20:** NO FUMY
- **February 23:** Remaining balance due for Veritas
- **February 25 - 27:** FUMY to Veritas, Rogers, AR



Snack Suppers:


February 6 - Stacey Davis
 February 13 - Monica Sims
 February 20 - NO FUMY
 February 27 - Veritas

Well, the month of January was a little bit of everything... inside without masks, inside with masks, outside at church and online on zoom! But no matter what we had to do, our youth complied and did it without hesitation. Our mission for January was packing 350 bags for the "Feed the Kids" mission. It was wonderful to be able to do something for those that do not have enough food to eat on the weekends. We had some great lessons on what it means to follow Jesus, games inside and outside, delicious food prepared by our amazing FUMY parents & lots of great fellowship. Our small groups got together as often as they could and that is always good for all of our mental health. We are ending the month with our monthly prayer breakfast and with high hopes of getting to attend Veritas next month.

Ready or not, February is coming! We will start the month off with mission work. Our February mission will be to pack goody bags for our college students. We will mail them some goodies and send them with our prayers. We will continue with our FUMY small groups on Sunday nights and will continue learning more about what it means to follow Jesus and to live in to what God is calling us to do. Wednesday nights we are learning what it means to put all of our trust in God regardless of what all is going on in the world and in our lives and inside of us. We are excited to return to VERITAS at the end of the month. The Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries is planning to host this huge event for 7-12th grade youth & their adult chaperones across our conference and we are planning to go. Please join us in praying that it does not get cancelled.

We are making plans for our summer mission trip already and we will be reaching out to all of you for some financial support again. Thank you for all of the ways that you support our youth. Please continue to cover our students with your prayers. Stay safe & take care of yourselves. May God be glorified in all that we say and do.



Christ above all, *Lori* 



Chancel Choir – Bells of Hope – Praise Band

Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope are rehearsing music for the Winter/ Lenten season on Wednesday in the Sanctuary. Chancel Choir @ 6 pm and Bells of Hope @ 7 pm. These rehearsals are an hour of musical fellowship that lifts your spirit as you participate in preparing music for our traditional worship services. Please consider joining these adult music choirs!

Quote to consider and enjoy!

“The person born with a talent they are meant to use will find their greatest happiness in using it.” — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Feeding the Community

Feed Our Neighbors Ministry

Every other Thursday one of the Feed Our Neighbors Ministry Teams meets at 9:00 to put out the food that will be placed in the bags for Our Neighbors. At 10:00 the second FON Ministry Team meets to put the food in bags. We have three groups of Neighbors: those with 1-2 members in a family, those with 3-4 members, and those with 5-7 members. The two larger family groups' bags are labeled with their own names as well as the FON driver's name that delivers to them.

To date we have many Neighbors who are able to come to the church to pick up their bags from 11:00-noon on each designated Thursday. Besides receiving their bag, they are given a note that reminds them when the next delivery will be.

Those Neighbors who are unable to come to the church because of lack of transportation, other mobility issues, or other issues are still being delivered to.

For your continued prayers for this Ministry, Thank You. Thanks, too, for your monetary gifts and your gifts of food.

In Christian love,
The FON Ministry Team

“Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Children's Ministry



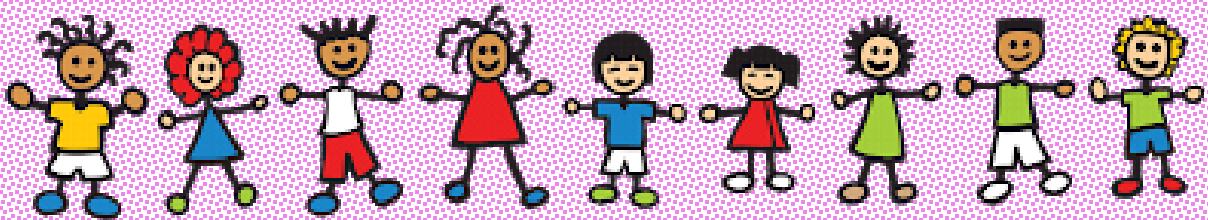
Because of a recent spike in positive COVID cases in our area, we had a slower start than was expected for our Wednesday after school pick up and activities. We have now begun to meet from 3:30-5:00. Our children are enjoying a Bible story with crafts, ringing bells, and singing.

The children and adults are wearing masks on the church buses. We have extra masks if any child gets on a bus and needs one.

Immediately after our Children's activities are over at 5:00, we head to the Family Life Center to enjoy our Wednesday Night Family Meal. COME JOIN US!

Each of you is called by name as you are remembered in our prayers. You are loved.
Ms. Brenda and the Children's Ministry Team

Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"



The Children's Choir and Bells

Hello Everyone,

Just a reminder of Children's choir, handbells, Bible stories, and other activities meeting on Wednesdays after school!! There's snacks also!! Hope all, who can, will join us in fun fellowship together!!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Mrs. Kathy 

Spouses Without Partners

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Noon to 1:00 P.M.

Lunch Provided

Please RSVP by 1/28

Did you know that FUMC partnered with 1st Presbyterian and 1st Baptist to provide 60 bags of goodies to Annswood Residents? This is an ongoing mission for our church.

Weekly Events

Sundays:

- 9:00 AM In-person & Online Service
11:00 AM In-person & Online Service
10:00 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's
Sunday School
10:00 AM Chancel Choir
4:00 PM Confirmation Class FH
5-7:30 PM FUMY Small Groups/Supper

Mondays:

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 AM Prayer Team
6:00 PM Circle 3-Feb. _(LeAnne/Julie)
10:00 AM Wilma Hankins—Feb. 8
6:00 PM Libby Annulis—Feb. 8

Wednesdays:

- 3:30-5:00 PM Children's rotation
3:30-5:00 PM FUMY Hangtime
5:00 PM Family Night Meal FLC
5:30 PM "Thoughts From the Upper
Room" with Bro. Bryan
5:30-7 PM FUMY Mid-Week
6:30 PM Wednesday Small Group

Thursdays:

- 1:00 PM Disciple IV Bible study FH
3:30 PM Feed Our Neighbors
(Every other Thursday)

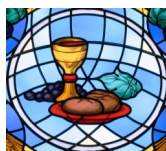
ARKANSAS TRAVELERS PRESENTS

2022 Charleston, SC Tour

Sunday, September 25—Saturday, October 1

Call Dalene Stephenson at 870-723-0650 for more information. Flyers are also available in the church office or on the information tables in the Family Life Center or Church Narthex.

Cost of trip is \$835 per person.



Communion in February will be on Sunday, February 6, 2022.

In Memoriam

Memorials were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

William Busby:

Sally & Bob Kirst
Charlotte McGarr
Patty Ross
Ginger & David Wilkins

Edwin Copeland:

Benny & Buck Henderson

Ed White (Wheaties):

Sue & David Anderson
Commercial Bank
Lisa & Cliff Gibson
The Coffee Guys
Benny & Buck Henderson
Sally & Bob Kirst
Charlotte McGarr

Catherine Mayers:

Patty Ross



January has been the month all scouts have been catching up on requirements. We have had some new recruitment in Cub Scouts. The young scouts have been working on coding, team building, and essentials of hiking. Our older scouts have been doing knot tying reviews, essentials with camping, and still continue their Personal Fitness. Both Scout groups have attended Winter Camp at Camp De Soto in El Dorado where they have had some kind of “experience” with a Yeti/BigFoot.



February brings the 112th Birthday of Boy Scouts in America. We will be recognizing Scout Sunday on February 13 at both services. Scouts are holding a service project during the month of February collecting dog food, blankets, and towels for Monticello 2nd Chance Dogs.



The Cub Scouts will also have an opportunity to “campout” on the USS Razorback docked in North Little Rock on February 26 and will hold their annual Pinewood Derby on February 28. We appreciate the continued support from Monticello FUMC with the Scouting programs in Monticello.



Thank You!

To My Church Family,

What a blessing you have been to me during my recent hospital and rehab stays.

Thank you so much for your prayers, your cards, and your calls. Thanks to you for the bountiful bag of Christmas goodies, and thanks to the youth for caroling me.

I am anxious to get back to in-person church. I have missed you all! I am improving and hope to see you very soon.

Love to you all, Charlotte McGarr

The FUMC Family,

Thank you so much for honoring Ellis. The flowers were beautiful, and the Bible is just the sweetest! We are so thankful for your love, thought, and prayers for our little Ellis Andrew! Thank you for continuing to think of us. With love, Sally and Ryan Beebe

First United Methodist Church,

Thanks for the weekly meals. You bring so much joy and full bellies. We appreciate everything that you take out of your time to do for us. Thank you. Options



Sole Purpose Update



Although we had our formal coat and shoe distribution in the fall, our church continues to work on providing shoes and coats for our Drew County kids in January! Recently, we polled the teachers in the Drew Central and the Monticello School District to see if we had any children in need in this winter season. And the answer was yes! After gathering all of the information, we were able to provide approximately 50 additional children with warm clothing—shoes, socks, and winter coats. Our FUMC's ministry continues.

We will soon begin our fundraising efforts again as we plan for our next fall distribution. We have to start early! If you wish to make a donation or a memorial now, just let Lynne know that you want it in the Sole Purpose account. As always, thank you for your gifts!



Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

UMW at our church meets together for a short business meeting ad salad potluck in April or May then again in December for a Christmas Party!

Small groups that usually meet monthly are listed below:

Wilma Hankins Circle

Second Tuesday @ 10:00 AM

Hutchinson Room

Sue Anderson—723-3093

Libby Annulis Circle

Second Tuesday @ 6PM

Meet at church

Brenda Wright—504-812-2842

Circle 3

Second Tuesday @ 6:00 PM

Meet in member's homes

LeAnne Burch—723-0583

Julie Smith—866-2202

Circle 5

Third Wednesday @ 6:00 PM

Family Life Center

Ember Davis—469-831-7760

We would love to welcome you
into our fellowship.

Please join us!

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2022

Jack Lassiter, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
Ray Ryburn, Trustee Leader
Stephanie Brown, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffee, Senior Pastor

Class of 2023

John Davis, SPPRC
Wil Maxwell, Trustees
Justin Atkins, Treasurer
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2024

Carole Martin, SPPRC
Maggie Brown, Trustees
Isabel Bacon, Finance

The Executive Council of the First United Methodist Church of Monticello meets at least once each month to complete various requirements of the United Methodists of Arkansas and to take action to benefit our local church. The Council is providing a short summary of primary actions and proposed activities discussed at these meetings which will be included in each monthly newsletter. These notes are not the complete minutes of the meeting.

January 18, 2022 Meeting

Reverend Diffee called a Special Charge Conference to receive Lea Ann Forrest into candidacy for Local Licensed Pastor. **SPPRC** in a December committee meeting the recommendation was to forward Lea Ann Forrest. A vote upon her going forward in this process was taken and passed unanimously.

Trustee Report

The Council briefly reviewed projects previously discussed that will require the Trustees to develop an estimate of cost.

1. A pavilion on the Jackson Street vacant lot. A committee will be formed. Two people have expressed interest at this time.
2. Carpet replacement in the FLC. Previously there was a discussion to replace the carpet with carpet squares so damaged areas can be easily replaced in the future.
3. Carpet in the Administration building. The carpet in the church office work room needs to be replaced due to water damage in the past. It may be that all carpet in the east area should be replaced due to damage and age.

Boy Scouts of America update

Reverend Diffee gave an update on the Special Called Annual Conference on the BSA settlement. The Zoom session had 442 members in attendance. The session confirmed recommendations made by the advisory committee which will be presented to the Judge for a final decision. In the event that there is a monetary contribution required of churches, the Arkansas Conference has put aside funds from a reserve account to cover any future claims that are not covered by the BSA Bankruptcy case.

Finance Report

The December 2021 financial report was reviewed and approved by the council.

Budget

The 2022 budget was distributed to each member and discussed in detail. The council approved the 2022 budget as presented.

Pastor Report

Reverend Diffee discuss the use of Mission Possible – A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness

Individual books were provided for all members of the council. The council will take time in future meetings to discuss the information presented in the book concerning the new organization of the council.

First United Methodist Church
317 S. Main St.
Monticello, AR 71655